

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 123758

20

ORIGIN SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 /012 R

66616

DRAFTED BY S/IL:DEGOOD

APPROVED BY S/IL:DEGOOD

IO/LABW:SHENDSCH

----- 098547

R 281852Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123758

FOR US DEL ILO

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 4652 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW

DATED 24 MAY 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04652

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PLAB, UR, BE

SUBJECT: SOVIET STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS LABOR MOVEMENT: PLO

IN THE ILO

1. HOUTHUYSEN, THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST LABOR UNION IN BELGIUM,  
SEES SOVIET STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE  
WEST AS HAVING TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS:

A. THE SOVIETS PORTRAY U.S. LABOR UNIONS AS EXTENSIONS OF  
CAPITALISM AND, ESPECIALLY, THE U.S.-DOMINATED MULTINATIONAL  
FIRMSS AND, THUS, AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE AMERICAN EFFORT  
TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION  
IN EUROPE. HOUTHUYSEN SAID THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE SOVIETS ARE  
CONDUCTING THIS CAMPAIGN WITH INTELLIGENCE, SUBTILITY, AND  
DILIGENCE. ALSO, HE SAID, THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED COUNTER-  
CAMPAIGN; THE FIELD WAS LEFT TO THE SOVIETS.

B. THE SOVIETS GRASP EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DIVIDE U.S. AND  
EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENTS, HOUTHUYSEN CONTENDS. A PRIME SOVIET  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 123758

OBJECTIVE IS TO SEPARATE FURTHER THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN

LABOR MOVEMENTS IN THE ILO. TO THIS END, HOUTHUY'S EXPECTS THE SOVIETS TO EXPLOIT ISSUES LIKE PLO REPRESENTATION IN THE ILO. NOTHING WOULD PLEASE THE SOVIETS MORE, HOUTHUY'S SAID, THAN TO HAVE THE PLO REPRESENTATION ACCEPTED AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, PROVOKE AFL-CIO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO.

2. HOUTHUY'S ADVOCATES CLOSE CONCERTATION OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN TACTICS AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA--ESPECIALLY REGARDING CONTENTIOUS ISSUES LIKE PLO REPRESENTATION. HOUTHUY'S SEES THE OBJECTIVES OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN LABOR AS THE SAME. WHAT IS NEEDED, HE THINKS, IS CLOSER COOPERATION ON TACTICS. HOUTHUY'S THINKS THAT THE USSR MIGHT NOT PUSH AS HARD FOR PLO REPRESENTATION IN THE ILO IF THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES LET THE SOVIETS KNOW THAT, IN EXCHANGE FOR LESS PERSISTENCE ON PLO REPRESENTATION, THEY WOULD EASE UP ON EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT DEFICIENCIES IN SOVIET LABOR PRACTICES. HOUTHUY'S CONSIDERS THAT TACTICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN LABOR CAN BE PRODUCTIVE ONLY IF BOTH SIDES REJECT RIGID PRECONCEPTIONS AND SEARCH TOGETHER FOR PRAGMATIC MEANS TO ATTAIN COMMON OBJECTIVES. FIRESTONE

O  
UNQUOTE  
INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, MEMBERSHIP, LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE123758  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DEGOOD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750187-0704  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750512/aaaaaktx.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SIL  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS LABOR MOVEMENT: PLO IN THE ILO  
**TAGS:** PROP, ELAB, UR, BE, PLO  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006